(c) Does not arise.

(d) Under the Scheme "National Project of Organic Farming", Government is promoting the production and use of bio-fertilizers by providing financial assistance for setting up of bio-fertilizers production units and on promoting bio-fertilizers.

Huge loss of cereal production due to climate change

1944. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a huge loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(b) if so, whether the ICAR has taken up any study to assess the loss of cereal production due to climate change;

(c) if so, the percentage of decline in the last three years and in the coming decade;

(d) the details of cereals that are going to be worst affected due to climate change; and

(e) what plans his Ministry has to overcome this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) No, Sir. There is considerable uncertainty about the magnitude of loss, however, preliminary studies suggest that loss in cereal production due to climate change could be 5 to 40% by the end of 2100 AD.

(b) ICAR is studying the possible impact of climate change on cereal production through Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes.

(c) There is no direct analysis of production decline in the last few years due to climatic change/variability. However, it is well known that increased temperature in February and March have caused some production decline in recent years.

(d) Wheat is likely to be more affected due to climate change.

(e) During Tenth plan period ICAR has initiated a Network Project on "Impact, Adaptation and Vulnerability of Indian Agriculture to Climate Change" at different ICAR Institutes/State Agricultural Universities. Emphasis has also been given during XI plan period to strengthen the existing institutional network to cope with the challenges posed by climate change.

Need to import rice

1945. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that production of rice would not be able to meet domestic needs and that the country may have to resort to import of rice;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the production of wheat is sufficient to meet requirement of those rice eaters switching to wheat;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to ensure self-sufficiency in rice and wheat; and

(e) whether the shortfall in rice production would result in rice eaters switching to wheat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (e) On the basis of the monthly per capita quantities of consumption reported in the National Sample Survey 61st Round Report on "Household Consumption of Various Goods and Services in India, 2004-05" and the population projections given by the Office of the Registrar General of India, the consumption requirement of rice in the country during 2006-07 is estimated at 88.25 million tonnes which also include seed, feed and wastage. As against this requirement, the production of rice during 2006-07 (4th advance estimates) is estimated at 92.76 million tonnes, India is a net exporter of rice.

Following the said approach, consumption requirement of wheat in the country during 2006-07 is estimated at 67.60 million tonnes as compared to its production of 69.35 million tonnes during the crop year 2005-06 which is available for consumption during marketing year 2006-07. The country imported 6.08 million tonnes of wheat during 2006-07 to augment the buffer stock. However, during 2006-07 the country produced 74.89 million tonnes of wheat which will be available for consumption during 2007-08 against estimated requirement of 68.59 million tonnes.

To increase the production of rice and wheat, the Integrated Cereals Development Programmes (ICDP) in rice and wheat based cropping systems have been under implementation since October 2000 in the country. However, in order to increase the production of rice and wheat further, recently a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Food Security Mission" (NFSM) has also been launched from 2007-08 in the country. It aims at increasing the production of rice by 10 million tonnes and wheat by 8 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.,* by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts of the country.

Decline in agriculture production

1946. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received any report from the State Governments about decline in agricultural production and productivity, attributable to division of agriculture labour from fields to National Rural Employment Guarantee (NREG) Scheme;

(b) if so, from which States; and

(c) what is the Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) No such reports have been received from the State Goverments. Both production and productivity of major agricultural crops in the country show increase since 2005-06 as shown below:

(Million Tonnes)

Crop	2005-06	2006-07*
Foodgrains	208.60	216.13
Oilseeds	27.98	23.88@
Sugarcane	281.17	345.31
Cotton#	18.50	22.70

*4th advance estimates released on 19.07.2007

#Million bales of 170 kg each.

@Production declined due to decline in area coverage